

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
initiating a reading of prefetch data in response to a request for prefetch data;
before completion of the reading of prefetch data, receiving a request for demand data; and
satisfying the request for demand data by providing at least a portion of the prefetch data prior to completing ~~the~~ reading of all of the prefetch data.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an amount of prefetch data that has been read prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data;
wherein determining comprises keeping track of the prefetch data as the prefetch data is read.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an amount of prefetch data that has been read prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data;

wherein determining comprises maintaining a count of prefetch data that has been read.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the demand data comprises data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprises data adjacent to the demand data.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the request for demand data is satisfied without substantial delay using the prefetch data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, if the amount of prefetch data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data, the method further comprises waiting for an amount of prefetch data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second request for prefetch data, the prefetch data associated with the second request being out of sequence relative to the prefetch data associated with ~~the a~~ first request for prefetch data; and
storing an amount of prefetch data that has been read in response to the first request up to a point at which the second request is received.

8. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable storage medium which stores executable instructions that cause a machine to:

initiate a read of prefetch data in response to a request for prefetch data;

before completion of the read of prefetch data, receive a request for demand data;

and

satisfy the request for demand data by providing at least a portion of the prefetch data prior to completing ~~the~~ reading of all of the prefetch data.

9. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, further comprising instructions to determine an amount of prefetch data that has been read prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data;

wherein determining comprises keeping track of the prefetch data as the prefetch data is read.

10. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, further comprising instructions to determine an amount of prefetch data that has been read prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data;

wherein determining comprises maintaining a count of prefetch data that has been read.

11. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the demand data comprises data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprises data adjacent to the demand data.

12. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the request for demand data is satisfied without substantial delay using the prefetch data.

13. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, wherein, if the amount of prefetch data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data, the instructions cause the machine to wait for an amount of prefetch data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data.

14. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 8, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

receive a second request for prefetch data, the prefetch data associated with the second request being out of sequence relative to the prefetch data associated with ~~the a~~ first request for prefetch data; and

store an amount of prefetch data that has been read in response to the first request up to a point at which the second request is received.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores executable instructions; and

a processor which executes the instructions to:

initiate a read of prefetch data in response to a request for prefetch data;

prior to completion of the read, receive a request for demand data; and

satisfy the request for demand data by providing at least a portion of the prefetch data prior to completing the reading of all of the prefetch data.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor executes instructions to determine an amount of prefetch data that has been read prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data; and

wherein determining comprises keeping track of the prefetch data as the prefetch data is read.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor executes instructions to determine an amount of prefetch data that has been read prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data; and

wherein determining comprises maintaining a count of prefetch data that has been read.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the demand data comprises data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprises data adjacent to the demand data.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the request for demand data is satisfied without substantial delay using the prefetch data.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein, if the amount of prefetch data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data, the processor executes instructions to wait for an amount of prefetch data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor executes instructions to:

receive a second request for prefetch data, the prefetch data associated with the second request being out of sequence relative to the prefetch data associated with ~~the~~ a first request for prefetch data; and

store an amount of prefetch data that has been read in response to the first request up to a point at which the second request is received.

22. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
reading data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of data, the predetermined amount of data comprising prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data;

determining an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data; and

satisfying a request for the demand data based on the amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data;

wherein, if the amount of data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data, the method further comprises waiting for an amount of data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein determining comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein determining comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

25. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
reading data in response to a request for a first predetermined amount of data;
determining an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the first predetermined amount of data;
receiving a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the first predetermined amount of data; and

storing an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is received.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the first and second predetermined amounts of data comprise different sets of prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the second request is for demand data; and

the method further comprises:
reading prefetch data in response to the second request; and
satisfying the second request with prefetch data prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data in response to the second request.

28. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a machine-readable storage medium that stores executable instructions to:

read data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of data, the predetermined amount of data comprising prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data;

determine an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data;

satisfy a request for the demand data based on the amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data; and

wait for an amount of data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data if the amount of data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

29. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein determining comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein determining comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

31. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a machine-readable storage medium that stores executable instructions to:

read data in response to a request for a first predetermined amount of data;
determine an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the first predetermined amount of data;

receive a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the first predetermined amount of data; and

store an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is received.

32. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 31, wherein the first and second predetermined amounts of data comprise different sets of prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 32, wherein the second request is for demand data; and

the article further comprises instructions to:
read prefetch data in response to the second request; and
satisfy the second request with prefetch data prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data in response to the second request.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a memory which stores machine-executable instructions; and
a processor which executes the instructions to:
read data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of data, the predetermined amount of data comprising prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data;

determine an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data; and

satisfy a request for the demand data based on the amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data;

wherein, if the amount of data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data, the processor executes instructions to wait for an amount of data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein determining comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein determining comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores machine-executable instructions; and

a processor which executes the instructions to:

read data in response to a request for a first predetermined amount of data;

determine an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the first predetermined amount of data;

receive a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the first predetermined amount of data; and

store an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is received.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the first and second predetermined amounts of data comprising different sets of prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the second request is for demand data; and

the processor executes instructions to:
read prefetch data in response to the second request; and
satisfy the second request with prefetch data prior to completing reading all of the prefetch data in response to the second request.

40. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising circuitry to:
initiate a read of prefetch data in response to a request for prefetch data;
before completion of the read of prefetch data, receive a request for demand data;
and

satisfy the request for demand data by providing at least a portion of the with
prefetch data prior to completing reading of all of the prefetch data.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein, if the amount of prefetch data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data, the circuitry waits for an amount of prefetch data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for demand data.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the circuitry:
receives a second request for prefetch data, the prefetch data associated with the second request being out of sequence relative to the prefetch data associated with ~~the~~ a first request for prefetch data; and
stores an amount of prefetch data that has been read in response to the first request up to a point at which the second request is received.